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ABSTRACT

This report informs the public about the welfare of California's children. Measuring the effectiveness of the efforts of all Californians, not just those of government agencies or other organizations responsible for children, the report measures California's performance on 27 benchmarks that, taken together, provide a statistical portrait of the whole child. The benchmarks are grouped into the five major categories of education, health, safety, teen years, and family life. Detailed data are provided for each of the 27 benchmarks. The benchmarks are: (1) dropout rate; (2) preschool education; (3) achievement scores; (4) SAT scores; (5) student-teacher ratio; (6) per pupil expenditures; (7) infant mortality; (8) late or no prenatal care; (9) inadequate immunization; (10) uninsured children; (11) use of a nutrition program; (12) mental health; (13) child abuse or neglect; (14) foster care; (15) drug exposed babies; (16) youth homicides; (17) college-bound students; (18) unemployed youth; (19) births to teens; (20) drug and alcohol use; (21) incarcerated juveniles; (22) child care; (23) homeless children; (24) public assistance payments; (25) hungry children; (26) child support; and (27) children in poverty. (TJQ)

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CALIFORNIA: THE STATE OF OUR CHILDREN 1993

DATA SUPPLEMENT

A PUBLICATION OF CHILDREN NOW™

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CALIFORNIA: THE STATE OF OUR CHILDREN 1993

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CHILDREN NOW
A Strong And Independent Voice for Children

Children Now is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, California-based organization for children. Children Now acts as a strong, independent voice for the millions of children who cannot speak for themselves--in the legislature, in the mass media and in the community. We focus particular attention on children who are poor and at risk.

Combining substantive policy expertise with effective communications and advocacy strategies, our mission is to make children a top priority in California and in the nation.

Children Now:

- Educates the public and decision makers about the needs of children;
- Develops and promotes effective strategies to improve children's lives;
- Generates new resources for cost-effective programs that benefit children and families;
- Reaches out to parents and children to inform them of opportunities to help themselves.

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California: State of Our Children 1993
Data Supplement

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Summary of Findings

The purpose of this report, *California: The State of Our Children 1993*, like the 1989-1992 reports, is to inform the public about how California's children are faring. It provides a comprehensive picture of California's children that can be tracked and monitored over time, much the way economists monitor the well-being of the economy with measures such as the Consumer Price Index or the Gross National Product.

Focus on Results
Like the economic indicators, *California: The State of our Children 1993* measures results, not simply efforts made. And, as with economic indicators, *The State of Our Children* report measures the effectiveness of the efforts of *all* Californians, not just government agencies or other organizations responsible for children. Readers should keep in mind that the data may not yet reflect recently implemented programs that may take several years to show positive results. Unfortunately, this report shows that any steps forward have been overwhelmed by the accumulated neglect of our children.

Evaluating California
California: The State of Our Children 1993 measures California's performance on 27 benchmarks that, taken together, provide a statistical portrait of the whole child. The State Benchmarks for Children are grouped into five major categories: Education, Health, Safety, Teen Years, and Family Life. Detailed data for each of the 27 benchmarks follow this summary.

Throughout this report, we rely on the most recent and reliable information available from government agencies and nationally recognized studies from the field. For each State Benchmark, we analyze the most recent four years of statistics available to determine whether:

- the situation for California's children is getting better or worse;
- California's performance is better or worse than the national average;
- California ranks among the 10 best states in the country.

The Overall Picture

- On 48% of those State Benchmarks with enough data to determine a trend, California's performance is getting worse. Youth homicide rates, teen birth rates, reports of child abuse and neglect, and child poverty rates are among the areas showing a worsening trend.

- California's performance is worse than the nation's on 83% of the State Benchmarks including children in poverty, child support payments, the student - teacher ratio, and the proportion of children without health insurance.

- California is not in the 10 best states in 87% of the State Benchmarks, including per pupil expenditures, unemployed youth and prenatal care.

The Wrong Direction

Two broad areas have shown noteworthy declines over the past several years:

Children in poverty:

The most disturbing finding in *California: The State of Our Children 1993* is the dramatic increase in the child poverty rate. The poverty rate of California children now stands at 25.3%, or one in four children. This proportion is higher than it has been at any time since the state began collecting this data in 1976 and is significantly higher than the rate in 1980 when 15.2% of California's children lived in poverty.

Child poverty is perhaps the most important indicator of child well-being. Poor children are four times more likely to die in infancy, four times more likely to become pregnant as teenagers, more likely to drop out of school and more likely to suffer serious illness, abuse and neglect than their more affluent counterparts.

At the same time that child poverty rates are growing, public and private investments in children are declining. Health care, recreation, education, homeless assistance, and welfare programs are all being threatened by government and private sector cutbacks. As a result, many low-income families are unable to adequately provide for their children.

Young people in serious trouble:

In the past two State of Our Children reports, the benchmarks for teens have shown alarming decline. These trends indicate that far too many children are not getting the early help they need to allow them to be healthy, happy, and productive. Instead, more young people are falling into serious trouble and end up requiring intensive, expensive rehabilitation. These trends are now well-documented and demand immediate attention. Over the most recent four years, there has been:

- a 59% increase in the youth homicide rate, with 828 young people murdered in California in 1991, the equivalent of more than 25 classrooms of children per year.

- a 23% increase in the teen birth rate, resulting in nearly 64,000 babies being born to teen mothers in 1992.

- an 81% increase in the youth unemployment rate, depriving more than one in four teens (25.1%) of valuable job experience, structure for free time and a path to a productive future.

In addition, drug and alcohol use among teens, while declining, remains high and smoking rates among young people have remained nearly constant for the past decade. This is alarming because cigarette smoking is linked to the deaths of nearly half a million Americans annually, more than any other cause. Most smokers begin and become hooked on cigarettes when they are young.

The Right Direction

Buried in the bad news are two areas which have shown consistent improvement over the past several years.

School dropout rates:

The percentage of children who drop out of school between 10th and 12th grade has declined from 18.2% in 1990-91 to 16.6% in 1991-92. This is important good news because the completion of high school is critical to finding a job that can support a family and because further education is rarely possible without it. Also, a high school degree should signify that a student has learned critical thinking skills that are important throughout life.

Unfortunately, the overall improvement masks increasing dropout rates in some communities. It is also important to note that these data are still somewhat new. Some of the short-term improvements at individual schools may be due to better reporting.

Infant mortality:

California's infant death rate improved 13% from 1988 to 1991, dropping from 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births to 7.5 per 1,000. California's rate is now considerably better than the national average and California's rank of 9 puts it in the top ten of all states.

However, since the low birthweight rate has failed to improve, experts are concerned that we are improving the infant mortality rate through the use of expensive high technology rather than through less expensive preventive measures.

In addition, significant racial disparities in infant mortality remain. In 1989, the most recent year of data, the African American infant death rate of 18.0 deaths per 1000 live births was more than twice that of Whites (7.7), Hispanics (7.8), and the average of the Asian nationalities (6.7).

Child support collection

The proportion of child support orders that receive some payment has increased 9% since 1989. Improvement in child support collections is important because more than half of all children will spend a portion of their childhood living in a single-parent family and because child support has a dramatic effect on their standard of living.

Despite this improvement, California's child support system has a long way to go before it adequately serves the children who need it. In 1992, only 43.8% of all orders received some payment. In addition, many children needing support are not even included in these statistics because they have been unable to obtain a child support order.

A Word about Data

Over the five years that we have tracked these data, six indicators have consistently lacked enough reliable information to determine a consistent trend: Preschool Education, Children's Mental Health, Drug Exposed Babies, Child Care, Homeless Children, and Hungry Children. This missing information is critical for sound program planning and for evaluation of the effectiveness of the services provided. In addition, we have been without timely data in several important indicators such as juvenile incarceration rates and national immunization rates.

STATE BENCHMARKS FOR CHILDREN 1993

Benchmark	California Trend	U.S. Comparison	Rank: Top 10?
Education			
1. Dropout Rate	Better	Worse	No (42nd)
2. Preschool Education	Incomplete	NA	NA
3. Achievement Scores	Better*	NA	NA
4. SAT Scores	Worse	Better	No (7 of 23)
5. Student/Teacher Ratio	Better*	Worse	No (49 of 50)
6. Per Pupil Expenditures	Better	Worse	No (33rd)
Health			
7. Infant Mortality	Better	Better	Yes (9th)
8. Late or No Prenatal Care	Worse*	Better	No (41st)
9. Inadequate Immunization	Better	Worse	NA
10. Uninsured Children	Worse	Worse	No (41st)
11. Use of Nutrition Program	Better*	Worse	No (47th)
12. Mental Health	Incomplete	NA	NA
Safety			
13. Child Abuse/Neglect	Worse	Worse	No (48th)#
14. Foster Care	Better	Worse	NA
15. Drug Exposed Babies	Incomplete	NA	NA
16. Youth Homicides	Worse	Worse	NA
Teen Years and Beyond			
17. College Bound Students	Better	Worse	NA
18. Unemployed Youth	Worse	Worse	No (46th)
19. Teen Births	Worse	Worse	No (40th)
20. Drug and Alcohol Use	Better	NA	NA
21. Incarcerated Juveniles	Worse#	Worse#	No (50th)#
Family Life			
22. Child Care	Incomplete	NA	NA
23. Homeless Children	Incomplete	NA	NA
24. Public Assistance Payments	Worse	NA	Yes (5th)#
25. Hungry Children	Incomplete	NA	NA
26. Child Support	Better	Worse	No (36 of 45)
27. Children in Poverty	Worse	Worse	No (35)
OVERALL	Worse: 48%	Worse: 83%	Not in Top 10: 87%

Trends are based on the most recent four years of information. When no clear trend emerges, data from additional years are analyzed. A (#) indicates that no new data are available, so data from earlier *California: The State of Our Children* reports are used. An (*) indicates that the trend is based on five years. In most cases, ranks are out of a possible 51 (including 50 states and the District of Columbia) with 1 being best and 51 being worst. However, the SAT score is out of 23 states so it is converted to a rank out of 51 states to determine whether it is in the top 10. NA = Information not available. Incomplete = Available data are incomplete, so no trend can be determined.

EDUCATION

1. DROPOUT RATES

Refers to: The percentage of 10th, 11th and 12th graders who leave school and do not notify the school of a change of residence.

California Trend:

1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
21.4%	20.1%	18.2%	16.6%

National Average: 28.8% in 1990, 28.8% in 1991 (based on a graduation rate of 71.2% for both years). (In 1991, California's rate was 32.3%, based on a graduation rate of 67.7%.)
State Rank: 42nd in 1990, 42nd in 1991

Note: We provide dropout rates, rather than graduation rates, for California because dropout data give a more accurate picture of school participation by taking into account changes of residence and whether a student is held back. Dropout rates typically provide a more positive picture of school completion than graduation rates. However, the national average and state rank are based on graduation rates because dropout data are not available in all states.

Sources: California State Department of Education, *Dropout Rates in California Public Schools, 1987-1991* (Sacramento, CA: SDE, 1992) and State Department of Education (pers. com. 1993).

2. PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

Refers to: The number and percentage of 3-, 4-, and 5-year-olds who receive early childhood education through programs such as Head Start. In California, low-income youngsters receive such early childhood education through a variety of programs, some of which are full-day and some part-day.

California Trend:

Numbers to determine the percentage of all children receiving preschool education are not available. Similarly, regarding low-income children, the percentage of eligible children who receive preschool education cannot be determined because of lack of data. However, a rough estimate shows that a minimum of 117,700 needy children received early childhood education in 1991-92 through a combination of part-day and full-day programs. The number of children served in 1992-93 is not yet known.

Included in the 1991-92 tally are:
- Approximately 40,000 young children served by California's State Preschool Program;
- An estimated 25,000 young children receiving preschool education through other state-funded child development programs;

• An estimated 52,700 children served by Head Start in 1992. (There may be some overlap between the number of children in Head Start and other child development programs, but the overlap cannot be determined with available data.)

In addition, the State spent $77 million in federal block grant money and $37 million on "At-Risk" child care. Experts estimate that much of the At-Risk child care money is spent on developmentally appropriate programs for preschool children. The amount of federal block grant money spent on preschoolers is not known.

Data are not available to determine the extent of the unmet need for preschool education in California, as there is no annual count of the number of children aged three to five who qualify for preschool education each year based on their families' income. Perhaps the best proxy measure is Head Start -- a program that serves an estimated 25% of eligible children in California.

While state appropriations for the State Preschool Program remained fairly constant in recent years, they increased dramatically in 1991-92 (dollars in millions).

1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
$39.0	$39.3	$86.0	$84.0

National Average: In 1992, it is estimated that a third of eligible children receive Head Start services nationwide.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California Department of Education, Field Services Branch, *Program Facts 1991/92* (Sacramento, CA: CDD, 1991); California State Department of Education, Program Evaluation and Research Division, *In Our Care* (Sacramento, CA: SDE, 1990); Head Start Region 9 Office (pers. com. 1993); California Department of Education, Local Assistance Division (pers. com. 1993); Children's Defense Fund, (pers. com. 1993).

3. ACHIEVEMENT SCORES

Refers to: California Assessment Program (CAP) direct writing scores for 8th grade students. These achievement tests are administered to all 8th, and 12th grade students. A potential perfect score is 500, with a typical range of 100 to 400. Direct writing tests assess a student's skills in writing an essay.

California Trend:

1987	1988	1989	1990	1992
250	256	255	259	257

Note: 1991 scores are not available because funds for CAP testing were eliminated from the 1991-92 State budget. Direct writing scores were used for this year's report instead of reading and math scores because direct writing is considered a better indicator of whether a student is performing at the appropriate level. In addition, when new CAP tests are implemented the direct writing section will likely be the only section that is consistent with past CAP tests.

National Average: Not available
State Rank: Not available

Source: California State Department of Education, California Assessment Program, (pers. com. 1993).

4. SAT SCORES

Refers to: The average combined math and verbal SAT score (out of a possible 1600) of high school students taking the test.

California Trend:

1989	1990	1991	1992
906	903	897	900

National Average: 896 in 1991, 899 in 1992
State Rank: 5th of 23 in 1991, 7th of 23 in 1992

Note: State ranks for SAT scores are calculated only for those states with a significant proportion of high school students taking the test.

Sources: U.S. Department of Education, *State Education Performance Chart* (Washington, DC: USDE, 1989-1992).

5. STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

Refers to: The number of pupils for every one teacher in California's public schools.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
22.9	22.7	22.4	22.8	22.8

National Average: 17.2 in 1991, 17.3 in 1992
State Rank: 49th of 50 in 1991, 49th of 50 in 1992

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Education Statistics, School Year 1992-93* (Washington, DC: USDE, April 1993 and previous years)

6. PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES

Refers to: The average dollar expenditure per pupil in California's public schools. Expenditures in brackets are adjusted by a state and local government inflator to reflect actual expenditures in 1988 dollars.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991
$3,840	$4,121	$4,645	$4,644
($3,840)	($3,956)	($4,278)	($4,125)

National Average: $4,952 in 1990, $5,217 in 1991
State Rank: 25th in 1990, 33rd in 1991

Sources: National Education Association, *Estimates of School Statistics* (Washington, DC: NEA, 1989-92).

HEALTH

7. INFANT MORTALITY

Refers to: The number of infants who die in their first year of life per 1,000 live births.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991
8.6	8.5	7.9	7.5

National Average: 9.8 in 1989, 9.2 in 1990
State Rank: 12th in 1989, 9th in 1990

Sources: California State Department of Health Services (pers. com. 1993) and *Vital Statistics of California 1988-91* (Sacramento, CA: DHS, 1989-92); National Center for Health Statistics (pers. com. 1993); KIDS COUNT, *KIDS COUNT Data Book* (Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 1993).

8. LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE

Refers to: The percentage of births to women whose prenatal care began in the third trimester, who received no care, or whose time of entry into care was unknown.

California Trend:

1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
7.1%	7.4%	7.9%	7.9%	7.2%

National Average: 8.4% in 1989, 8.1% in 1990
State Rank: 37th in 1988, 41st in 1989 (based only on women who received third trimester care or no care at all).

Sources: California State Department of Health Services, Birth Records 1988-92; National Center for Health Statistics (pers. com. 1993 and previous years); Children's Defense Fund, *State of America's Children 1992* (Washington, DC: CDF, 1993).

9. INADEQUATE IMMUNIZATION

Refers to: The percentage of 2-year olds who are not fully immunized for DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis).

California Trend:

1989	1990	1991	1992
52.3%	51.1%	45.7%	45.9%

National Average: Nationwide samples have not been available since 1985. 44.3% were inadequately immunized in that year. (In 1985, 52.6% of California's 2-year olds were inadequately immunized.) In 1992 the Centers for Disease Control surveyed immunization units of 46 states and territories and found a median of 42.5% of 2-year olds were inadequately immunized for DTP.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California State Department of Health Services, Immunization Unit (pers. com. 1993) and Survey of Kindergarten Children, 1990; Center for Disease Control, National Immunization Survey (Atlanta, GA: CDC, 1985); and *1992 Retrospective Survey Results of Immunization Status at Second Birthday* (Atlanta, GA: CDC, 1992).

10. UNINSURED CHILDREN

Refers to: The percentage and number of children under age 18 who have no health insurance coverage through public or private programs.

California Trend:

1986	1988	1990
21.6%	22.8%	25.6%
1.6 million	1.7 million	2.1 million

Note: In 1988, the Current Population Survey was changed in a way that affected how uninsured children are counted. The estimates of uninsured children used in this report are based on the pre-1988 method to show a consistent trend. The national average and rank are also based on the pre-1988 survey methodology.

National Average: 20.6% (13.4 million) in 1990
State Rank: 42nd in 1989, 41st in 1990

Sources: Calculations of the Current Population Survey by Robert Valdez and Roberta Wyn, UCLA School of Public Health (pers. com. 1993).

11. USE OF NUTRITION PROGRAM

Refers to: The number and percentage of mothers and their children eligible for nutrition supplements through the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) who receive those benefits. WIC provides high-protein food supplements to low-income pregnant women and young children who are at "nutritional risk".

California Trend:

1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
388,002	401,244	482,321	520,000	627,000
32.0%	32.8%	39.4%	37.0%	42.9%

Note: The USDA funding formula used to divide money between state WIC programs was revised in this fiscal year to reflect the 1990 census. This provided a funding boost to the California WIC program that added nearly 100,000 new participants during the past year. However, even with increased funding, the California WIC program has still been unable to meet the tremendous need for services. Some counties are serving only women and infants and turn away young children who qualify for the program. The number of mothers and children served is based on the average number of pregnant women and children served by WIC each month. For 1992-93, the number of pregnant women and children served is based on the state's target allocation for the year.

National Average: 56% in 1991, 64% in 1992
State Rank: 47 in 1989

Note: The method to determine the national percentage is slightly different from that used for the state figures: national eligibility counts are based on 185% of the federal poverty level and take health risks into account; the California count is based on 200% of the federal poverty level and does not take health risks into account.

Sources: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (pers. com. 1993); Laurie True, California Rural Legal Assistance (pers. com. 1993).

12. MENTAL HEALTH

Refers to: The percentage of children under age 18 who need mental health services and receive them.

California Trend:

There are no updates since last year's report. There are no annual figures for the number of children in California needing mental health services or for the total number served by programs. However, it should be noted that indicators such as poverty and violence, which contribute to children's mental health needs, are increasing while funding for mental health services continues to decline.

The State Department of Mental Health estimates that 12% of California's children (roughly 930,000) need mental health services. In 1989-90, 66,000 children received mental health services in California's public treatment programs -- an estimated 7% of the need. An additional 5,000 children were served by school-based early mental health intervention and prevention services. No data are available regarding children treated in the private sector.

National Average: At least 7.5 million children (12%) in the United States under age 18 suffer from mental problems severe enough to require treatment. Only about 20% of children who need mental health treatment receive it. In addition, the suicide rate, one indicator of mental health, is the third leading cause of death among people ages 15-24.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California State Department of Mental Health, Children, Youth, and Families Branch (pers. com., 1993), Primary Intervention Program (pers. com. 1992); U.S. Congress, Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, Close to Home: Community-Based Mental Health Services for Children, A Fact Sheet (Washington, DC: Select Committee, April 1991).

SAFETY

13. CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Refers to: The number of child abuse and neglect reports per 1,000 children.

California Trend:

1989	1990	1991	1992
69.9	70.4	70.9	74.8

Note: Rates are different from previous State of Our Children Reports. The rates have been recalculated using California Department of Finance and U.S. Census Bureau population estimates based on the 1990 census.

National Average: 42 in 1991, 45 in 1992
State Rank: 48th in 1987, not available in subsequent years

Sources: California Department of Social Services, Statistical Services Bureau (pers. com. 1993); National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse, *Current Trends in Child Abuse Reporting and Fatalities: The Results of the 1992 Annual Fifty State Survey* (Chicago, IL: NCPCA, April 1993); California Department of Finance, Historical Population Estimates (pers. com. 1993). U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates based on 1990 Census.

14. CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

Refers to: The number and rate (per 1,000) of children under 18 years of age who are in out-of-home/substitute care, including children in foster care, children placed out of their homes with relatives, and children on probation who are not in institutionalized care (e.g. California Youth Authority, county camps, etc.).

California Trend:

Jan. 1990	Jan. 1991	Jan. 1992	Jan. 1993
75,583	80,629	81,651	85,031
9.6	10.0	9.9	9.8

Note: Rates are different from previous State of Our Children Reports. The rates have been recalculated using California Department of Finance and U.S. Census Bureau population estimates based on the 1990 census.

National Average: 6.4 (407,000) in 1990, 6.6 (429,000) in 1991
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California State Department of Social Services, Foster Care Information System (pers. com. 1993), Toshi Tatara, Voluntary Cooperative Information System, The American Public Welfare Association, Washington, DC (pers. com., 1993); California Department of Finance, Historical Population Estimates (pers. com. 1993). U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates based on 1990 Census.

15. DRUG EXPOSED BABIES

Refers to: The percentage of infants who are born exposed to illicit drugs or alcohol.

California Trend:

No annual statewide statistics are available and there are no updates since last year's State of Our Children Report. Experts estimate that between 72,000 and 85,000 babies are born exposed to drugs or alcohol in California -- 13-15% of babies born each year. Public hospitals in Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Francisco report 10-25% of births with positive urine toxicology screens for illicit substances. Survey information from throughout the state shows that the problem is growing, though the cocaine epidemic seems to have peaked.

Preliminary data from a study by the Center for the Vulnerable Child document the fact that in 1991, 48% of California's programs serving women with dependency problems had waiting lists with an average wait of 35 days for non-residential treatment and 1-6 months for residential treatment.

A statewide prevalence study is currently being conducted by the Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, with results to be available in July 1993.

National Average: National statistics are not available except as estimates, derived from surveys which use many different methodologies and arrive at many differing results. The earliest study to collect such data showed that 11% of births had a positive toxicology screen for illicit drugs. Estimates based on the 1990 National Institute on Drug Abuse Household Survey found 554,400 to 739,200 infants exposed each year to one or more illicit drugs, a substantial rise from original estimates of 375,000 infants. Also, national surveys show that only 30% of drug/alcohol treatment facilities serve pregnant women, compounding the difficulties created by the sparse number of treatment facilities overall.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (pers. com., 1991); Center for the Vulnerable Child (pers. com. 1993); Testimony by Dr. Neal Halfon, Director, Center for the Vulnerable Child, before the Select Committee on Children, Youth, and Families, (Washington, DC: Select Committee, April 27, 1989); Chasnoff, I.J., Drugs, *Alcohol, Pregnancy, and the Neonate: Pay Now or Pay Later*, JAMA, 1991: 266: 1567-1568; Jones, E.D. and Ackatz, L., *Availability of Substance Abuse Treatment Programs for Pregnant Women: Results from Three National Surveys*, The National Committee for the Prevention of Child Abuse (January 1992).

16. YOUTH HOMICIDES

Refers to: The number and rate of victims of homicide crimes per 100,000 persons under 20 years of age.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991
492	617	702	828
5.8	7.1	8.0	9.2

Note: Rates are different from previous State of Our Children Reports. The rates have been recalculated using California Department of Finance population estimates based on the 1990 census.

National Average: 4.6 in 1990, 5.2 in 1991
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California Office of the Attorney General, Bureau of Criminal Statistics and Special Services (pers. com. 1993); Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting (pers. com. 1993); California Department of Finance, Historical Population Estimates (pers. com. 1993).

17. COLLEGE BOUND STUDENTS

Refers to: The percentage of high school graduates under 20 years old who enroll in 2- and 4-year public and private colleges and universities within California.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991
55.3%	55.7%	56.1%	54.7%

National Average: 62.4% in 1991, 62.7% in 1992
State Rank: Not available

Note: State figures for 1988 and 1990 have been revised by the State since last year's State of Our Children Report to reflect better tracking of high school students after they graduate. The method for determining the national average is slightly different from the state figures: the national average is based on high school students who graduated between January and October of 1991, are ages 16-24, and are enrolled in 2- and 4-year colleges.

Sources: California State Department of Education, Postsecondary Education Commission, *California College-Going Rates* (Sacramento, CA: SDE, 1993); Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (pers. com. 1993).

18. UNEMPLOYED YOUTH

Refers to: The number and percentage of 16- to 19-year-olds who are actively looking for work but are unemployed.

California Trend:

1989	1990	1991	1992
13.9%	15.6%	20.1%	25.1%
118,000	121,000	153,000	187,000

National Average: 18.6% (1,290,000) in 1991, 20.0% (1,352,000) in 1992
State Rank: 39th in 1991, 46th in 1992

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Current Population Survey*, 1993.

19. TEEN BIRTHS

Refers to: The number of births to females aged 15-19 per 1,000 females of that age.

California Trend:

1988	1989	1990	1991
56.2	62.8	69.9	69.1

Note: Rates are different from previous State of Our Children Reports. The California rates have been recalculated using California Department of Finance population estimates based on the 1990 census. The 1989 national rate was calculated using Census Bureau population estimates based on the 1990 Census.

National Average: 57.3 in 1989, 59.9 in 1990
State Rank: 39th in 1989, 40 in 1990

Sources: California State Department of Health Services, Vital Statistics 88-91 (Sacramento, CA: DHS, 1989-92); National Center for Health Statistics, Department of Health Services, *Vital Statistics of the United States, 1990, Vol. 1, Natality* (Washington, DC: DHS, 1993); Child Trends, *Facts at a Glance* (March 1993); California Department of Finance, Historical Population Estimates (pers. com. 1993).

20. YOUTH USING DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Refers to: Percentage of 11th graders using beer, marijuana, or cocaine once per week or more.

California Trend:

	1985-86	1987-88	1989-90	1991-92
Beer	20.1%	19.5%	16.1%	17.4%
Marijuana	13.4	8.5	6.9	6.9
Cocaine	3.0	1.2	0.7	0.6

National Average: Available national data are not comparable to California's data. National statistics show that overall drug use, including cocaine and crack, among high school seniors continued to decline in 1992, although 41% had tried an illicit drug at some time, and 25% had tried an illicit drug other than marijuana. (This survey does not include those students who do not finish high school.) In 1992, 51% of high school seniors reported using alcohol in the 30 days prior to the survey, a 3 percentage point decrease since 1991. The level of cigarette smoking has remained constant, however: 28% of seniors report smoking cigarettes in the 30 days prior to the survey, down only 2 percentage points from 10 years earlier. There has been virtually no improvement in the smoking rates among young people over the past decade.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: Rodney Skager, Sandra Frith, and Ebrahim Maddahian, *4th Biennial Survey of Drug and Alcohol Use Among 7th, 8th and 9th Graders: Executive Summary and Selected Excerpts* (Sacramento, CA: California Department of Justice, June 1992); Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future* (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan, April 1993).

21. INCARCERATED JUVENILES

Refers to: The number of juveniles placed in custody of public institutions (including California Youth Authority, county juvenile halls and camps) per 100,000 juveniles.

Note: There is no new information since the 1992 State of Our Children Report.

California Trend:

1983	1985	1987	1989
390	430	498	529

National Average: 208 in 1987, 221 in 1989
State Rank: 50th in 1987, 50th in 1989

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *Juvenile Justice Bulletin* (Washington, DC: DOJ, October 1990) and previous years.

FAMILY LIFE

22. AVAILABILITY OF CHILD CARE (INCLUDING LATCHKEY)

Refers to: The percentage of children whose parents need child care and are able to obtain it.

California Trend:

There is no annual count of the number of children in California whose parents need child care. The only information about children receiving child care is the count of children served by the state's child development programs. It shows that roughly 117,000 children were served by the Child Development Division in 1991-92. In addition, 814,627 California tax-filers received a tax credit for child care on their 1991 tax returns. Approximately 234,000 children ages 6-14 were eligible for subsidized latchkey care in 1985, while 7% of these children (16,500) were actually served. Experts estimate that the percentage served probably has not increased.

National Average: Because the state-based data on child care are so incomplete, it is not possible to get a national count of the percentage of children needing child care who receive it. What is known is that the majority of mothers work outside the home -- even mothers of young children. In 1992, approximately 54% of children under age 6 (11 million) had mothers in the labor force.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: California Franchise Tax Board (pers. com. 1993); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (pers. com. 1993). California Department of Education, Field Services Branch, *Program Facts 1991/92* (Sacramento, CA: CDD, 1991).

23. HOMELESS CHILDREN

Refers to: The number of children and youth under age 18 who live in shelters and on the street because they have no home.

California Trend:

There is no update since last year's report. The best reliable information shows that during the year ending June 1992, a minimum of 118,000 children were homeless. This estimate is based on the number of children served by the State of California's AFDC Homeless Assistance Program which provides housing assistance for temporary and permanent shelter. This is a significant reduction from the 196,000 children served by the program in the year ending June 1991. However, the reduction in the number of homeless children served by the state's program does not necessarily indicate a smaller number of homeless children. It reflects drastic cutbacks to the Homeless Assistance Program.

National Average: It is estimated by the National Academy of Sciences that on any given night, 100,000 children are homeless.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: Department of Social Services, Homeless Assistance Statistics (Sacramento, CA: DSS, 1991 and 1992), calculations by the California Homeless and Housing Coalition 1992 and 1993; Children's Defense Fund (pers. com. 1993.)

24. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS (AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN)

Refers to: The maximum monthly grant payment for a low-income family of 3 with at least one dependent child, and the average number of children receiving such payments each month. The years presented are fiscal years. The values in brackets represent the inflation-adjusted value of the grant payments in 1989-90 dollars.

California Trend:

1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
$694	$694	$663	$624
($694)	($663)	($601)	($556)
1.23 million	1.40 million	1.57 million	1.68 million

Note: The average number of children receiving AFDC payments each month in 1992-93 is based on data from the first 7 months of the fiscal year. The number of children in 1991-92 has been changed since last year's State of Our Children Report to reflect an average for the full year.

National Average: Not available (Because each state sets its own level of grant payment, and states have widely varying numbers of public assistance [AFDC] recipients, there is no figure that is comparable to California's.)
State Rank: 5th in 1992, based on AFDC benefits as a percentage of the 1991 federal poverty level. (The ranking does not take into account the higher cost of living in California relative to other states.)

Sources: California State Department of Social Services (pers. com. April 1993) and previous years; Children's Defense Fund, *The State of America's Children 1991* (Washington, DC: CDF, 1991); Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources (pers. com. 1992).

25. HUNGRY CHILDREN

California Trend:

There is no annual count of the extent of hunger among children in California and there are no updates since the 1991 State of Our Children Report, which reported a study by the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project (CCHIP), conducted by the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC). That study estimated that 647,000 children under age 12 (13%) were hungry in California in 1989. In addition, as part of the CCHIP study, the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation found that 36% of the families in 13 low-income communities in Stanislaus, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties face severe hunger. An additional 32% are at risk of hunger.

Since poverty rates among children have grown substantially since 1989, the number of hungry children will have grown significantly too. An update of the CCHIP study will be available in early 1994.

National Average: The FRAC study estimates that 5.5 million children under age 12 (13%) were hungry in 1989.
State Rank: Not available

Sources: Food Research and Action Center, A Survey of Childhood Hunger in the United States (Washington, DC: FRAC, 1991); California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Hunger in the Heartland (San Francisco, CA: CRLA, March 1991).

26. CHILD SUPPORT

Refers to: The percentage of child support orders receiving some payment.

California Trend:

1989	1990	1991	1992
40.3%	40.2%	42.9%	43.8%

Note: The 1991 collection percentage has been revised due to a reporting error in Orange County that year.

National Average: 57.2% in 1990, 56.3% in 1991. In the 1991 federal fiscal year, $4.6 billion was collected in child support--48.1% of the amount owed. In the 1990 federal fiscal year, $4.2 billion was collected in child support -- 53.1% of the amount owed.
State Rank: 41st of 45 in 1990, 36 of 45 in 1991.

Sources: California State Department of Social Services, Statistical Services Section (pers. com. 1993); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child Support Enforcement, *Child Support Enforcement: 15th and 16th Annual Reports to Congress* (Washington, DC: DHHS, 1992, and 1993).

27. CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Refers to: The number (in millions) and percentage of children under 18 years old living below the poverty level (currently $11,890 annual income for a family of three.) Because of the dramatic rise in child poverty in California in the early 1980s, we present a trend covering 12 years to accurately reflect the childhood poverty picture.

California Trend:

1980	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992
0.9	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.2
15.2%	20.7%	23.4%	21.9%	20.8%	21.5%	25.3%

Note: U.S. figures for 1991 are comparable to California's 1992 figures.

National Average: 13.4 million, 20.6% in 1990, 14.3 million, 21.8% in 1991
State Rank: 35th (based on the average of years 1986-90), 35th (based on the average of years 1987-91)

Sources: Unpublished information from California State Department of Finance, Current Population Surveys, 1982-1992; KIDS COUNT, *KIDS COUNT Data Book* (Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Social Policy, 1993); Children's Defense Fund, *The State of America's Children, 1992* (Washington, DC: CDF, 1992).

Comments on the Methodology Used in this Report

Trend Analysis: In order to analyze the trend for each benchmark, the most recent four years of data are presented. A trend was considered to be improving if performance improved for the most recent two years. If the pattern was not consistent for two consecutive years, we included the performance for a third year in our analysis. If there was still no consecutive two year pattern, we presented an additional year of data. In any case in which the additional year did not demonstrate a clear trend, we compared the performance in the earliest year presented with the most recent year. Data on the number of children living in poverty are presented for a longer period of time in order to educate the public about the significant increase in childhood poverty that began in California in the early 1980s.

Comparison to the National Average: The analysis of "better" or "worse" than the national average is based on whether California performed better or worse during the most recent year for which data are available. In some instances, the most recent comparable year is as long ago as 1985. If there are differences in what the state and national data represent, the differences are noted.

Rankings: Rankings are out of a possible 51 (50 states and the District of Columbia); a rank of one indicates best, 51 is worst. Rankings, too, are presented for the most recent year for which comparable data are available. For SAT scores, ranks are calculated only for those states in which a significant proportion of high school students take the test.

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